



Barrie Strohman working in a lily field

Nigel Strohman

## The 2011 Prairie Garden Award for Excellence

was awarded posthumously to Barrie Strohman

by Linda Pearn

**T**he *Prairie Garden Award for Excellence* is awarded annually to an individual or group making a significant contribution to the advancement and/or promotion of horticulture on the Northern Great Plains. This is the twelfth year that The Prairie Garden committee has presented this award.

The 2011 Prairie Garden Award for Excellence was presented posthumously to Barrie Strohman at a luncheon on September 1, 2011 at Southwood Golf & Country Club.

Accepting the Award in Barrie's memory were his wife, Joyce Strohman and son Nigel Strohman. Other family members in attendance were his daughter Natalie Strohman and granddaughter Jamie Dick.

In addition to Prairie Garden committee members, guests included Neepawa residents Ruth Hanke, Evelyn McConnell, Eleanor Nicholson and Brent Hunter as well as Wilbert Ronald (Jeffries Nurseries, Portage la Prairie), Hugh Skinner (President, Manitoba Horticultural Association), and Deborah Petrie (President, Manitoba Regional Lily Society).

Barrie Strohman was a building contractor in the Neepawa, MB area. In his search for a hobby with which to

relax at the end of the day, he discovered "Lilies". This hobby grew into a business "The Lily Nook" and Barrie was the main researcher and hybridizer. The Lily Nook website tells this story in greater detail in Barrie's own words. ([www.lilynook.mb.ca/About\\_Barrie.html](http://www.lilynook.mb.ca/About_Barrie.html)). Barrie was featured in an episode of *Recreating Eden*, a lifestyle/documentary television series featuring some of the world's greatest public and private gardens ([www.recreatingeden.com/index.php?pid=8&cseason=03&episode=38](http://www.recreatingeden.com/index.php?pid=8&cseason=03&episode=38)). His many horticultural achievements can be found in the article *In Memoriam* on the previous page.

The Prairie Garden Committee is pleased to have been able to recognize the contribution Barrie made to promoting horticulture through his love for the genus *Lilium*. 🌷

More information about the award and previous winners can be seen at: [www.theprairiegarden.ca/award.html](http://www.theprairiegarden.ca/award.html)

**Accepting the Award: (l-r) Natalie Strohman, Joyce Strohman, Nigel Strohman and Jamie Dick**



Sandy Venton

## In Memoriam: Richard Barrie Strohmman (1930 – 2010)

by Sandy Venton



Barrie Strohmman

The lily community of North America was saddened to learn of the passing of Barrie Strohmman on July 23, 2010.

Barrie served as President of both the Manitoba Regional Lily Society and the North American Lily Society, and as a director and vice-president of both organizations. He held numerous judging schools both in Manitoba and other provinces and states, acted as Classification Chair for most North American Lily Society shows, and sat on the Past Presidents Policy Committee as a past president of the North American Lily Society.

Barrie was a tireless speaker and promoter of the genus *Lilium* to a large number of garden clubs, horticultural societies in both Canada and the United States, and willingly shared his knowledge, expertise and hybridizing efforts with anyone interested in growing lilies. At any time during the lily season, from when the first martagon opened until the last oriental finished, Barrie could be found in the growing fields, giving tours to the many thousands of people who flocked to the Lily Nook (his thriving lily bulb mail order business) during the Neepawa Lily Festival, welcoming the many tour buses which make an

obligatory stop at the Nook. He also enjoyed making his own crosses when time finally permitted.

Barrie has deservedly been called the “Lily King”, and it is because of his forward-thinking and efforts that there is a yearly Lily Festival in the Town of Neepawa which has proclaimed itself the “Lily Capital of the World”, a name that has not been challenged.

Barrie was one of the main guiding lights for the Manitoba Regional Lily Society since its inception, and has probably done more to educate people about the genus *Lilium* than any other person in Canada. He served in the forefront of providing lily bulbs to the Manitoba Regional Lily Society for their various bulb sales. Under Barrie’s input and gentle nudging, the Manitoba Regional Lily Society has become one of the largest regional lily societies in North America. Without his knowledge, expertise and provision of bulbs, lilies would not be a presence in almost every flower garden in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

It has been my privilege to have known and served on various boards and committees with Barrie for almost 20 years, and I will miss this quiet, unassuming gentleman whom I counted as a dear friend and mentor. 🌱