

Dedication: Richard K. Downey Designer of Canola

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Dr. Richard K. Downey was born at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, January 26, 1927. He grew up in Saskatoon where he attended high school and where he lived all his life. He attended the University of Saskatchewan, College of Agriculture and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1950, majoring in field husbandry. He earned his Master of Science degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1952, with majors in field husbandry and genetics; and his doctoral degree from Cornell University in 1961, with majors in plant breeding and genetics.

Keith Downey had a great interest in agriculture, even though he grew up in Saskatoon and never worked on a farm. This interest in agriculture started early during his university years when he worked as a student assistant in the Dominion Forage Crops laboratory of the Canada Department of Agriculture in Saskatoon from 1946 to 1951. Because of the experience he gained in working with forages, he was offered and accepted a position as Research Officer with the Canada Department of Agriculture, Experimental Farm in Lethbridge, Alberta, where he assumed responsibilities for alfalfa breeding from 1951 to 1957. He then returned to Saskatoon to take up his work with the Agriculture Canada Research Station, first as a Research Officer (1957–1965) and then Research Scientist (1965–1979) to conduct oilseed breeding research. From 1979 to 1981 he was Acting Director of the Saskatoon Research Station, but