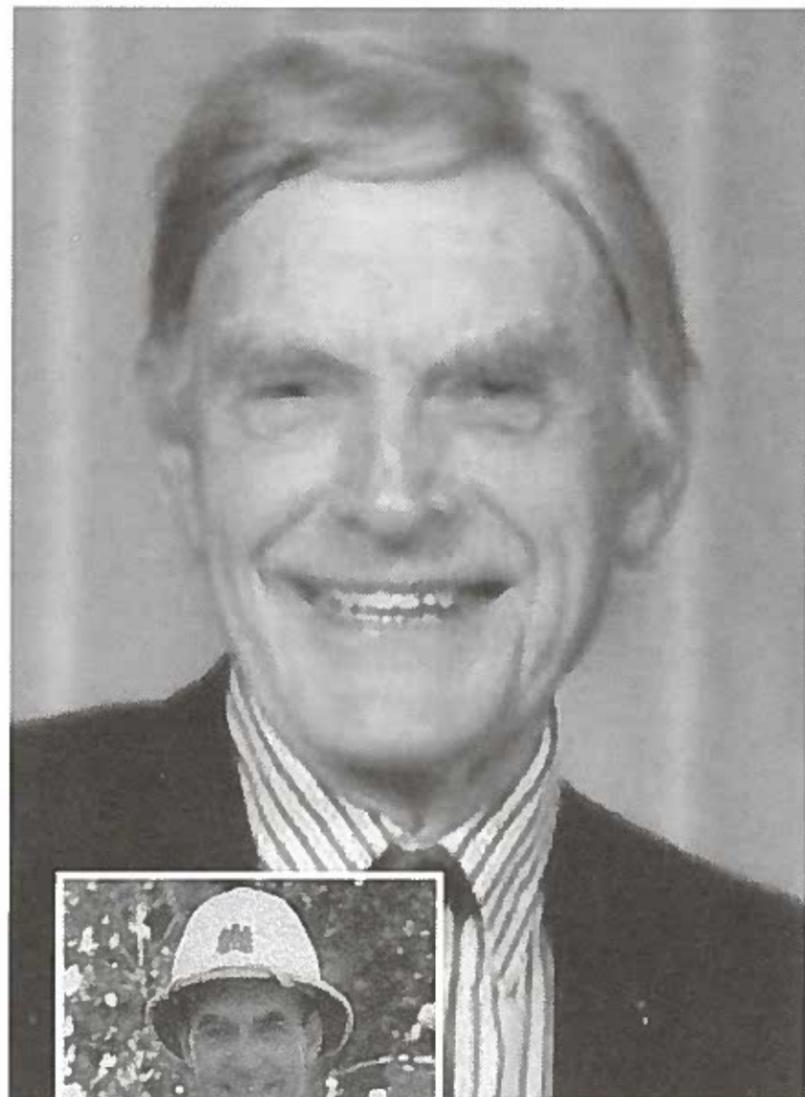


JOHN CRAWFORD CAIRNS

International Development/ Education



*Inducted: 2004
Years at GCI & VS:
1934 - 1938*

John C. Cairns was born in Galt on July 19, 1921 and went to Central Public School for his elementary education. He attended Galt Collegiate Institute from 1934 to 1938 and, upon his graduation, worked as a teller with the Bank of Montreal. After he served as a radar technician in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, he enrolled in the University of Western Ontario earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951. Mr. Cairns then took a position as a District Officer and Commissioner in the United Nations Trust Territory of Tanganyika, East Africa. He returned to Canada in 1958 to teach high school in Delhi and Kitchener during which time he completed a Masters of Arts degree at the University of Western Ontario.

In 1962 Mr. Cairns began his vocation as an education advisor, introducing programs for educational reform and English language instruction in Eastern Nigeria and Cameroon, West Africa. He returned to Canada in 1966 to plan and manage the adult education program of Canada's aboriginal peoples in the North West Territories. In 1968 Mr. Cairns pursued new career directions with the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), administering educational programs for basic literacy and adult education in over fifty countries. Back in Canada after 1974, Mr. Cairns acted as Director for the Centre of International Programs at the University of Guelph. Since 1985 Mr. Cairns has served as a consultant, primarily for the Canadian

International Development Agency (CIDA), planning and monitoring educational programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Cairns' career with world development organizations concerned about education and literacy has been remarkable. While with UNESCO from 1968 to 1974, he helped design the basic approach to evaluation used throughout the Experimental World Literacy Program. Mr. Cairns planned and chaired twenty-two United Nations (UN) and other agency conferences, seminars and workshops and served as senior UN representative and spokesperson at fifteen more.

In 1972 he was the Secretary-General of the UN's Third International Conference on Adult Education in Tokyo. Since 1985 Mr. Cairns has provided over sixty consultancy reports for CIDA and many non-governmental agencies, and in 1986, received the Lewis Perinbam Award for International Development. From 1989 to 1995, as monitor for the China Canada Management Education Program, he provided professional analysis to twenty-four Chinese universities that assisted in China's move to a more open free market economy. Mr. Cairns has published twenty-five books, articles and other reports and attended, as invited speaker, approximately thirty conferences around the world. Mr. Cairns was inducted into the Cambridge Hall of Fame in 2004.

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