



Nigel Strohmman

Barrie Strohmman working in a lily field

**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 Strohmman at a luncheon on September 1, 2011 at Southwood Golf & Country Club.

Accepting the Award in Barrie's memory were his wife, Joyce Strohmman and son Nigel Strohmman. Other family members in attendance were his daughter Natalie Strohmman 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 Strohmman was a building contractor in the Neepawa, MB area. In his search for a hobby with which to

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by Linda Pearn

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 Strohmman, Joyce Strohmman, Nigel Strohmman and Jamie Dick**



Sandy Venton