

## WALTER & ALLEN BLUME



Walter & Allen were born in Castor, Alberta. Walter & his wife Genevieve have three daughters, Chrystal, Tara and Lisa, while Allen & his wife Beverly have a son, Corbin, and three daughters, Marae, Chelsea and Megan. Walter and Genevieve have 4 grandchildren and Allen and Beverly have one grandchild

Walter and Allen's parents, John and Katherine Blume, were both immigrants from Russia that met and married in Canada. John was a horse trader for many years until he registered his first cows in 1941 after an acquaintance introduced him to the Hereford business. With a foundation of three cows and one calf that eventually went on to be the first bull that John took to the Calgary Bull Sale in 1944, Wabash Herefords was created. In 1966, John formed a company and legal partnership with his sons Walter and Allen, and thus, Blume Ranches Ltd. was born.

Blume cattle have sold throughout Canada, the United States, England, South Africa, and South America. Wabash Allen was the first Canadian bull sold to England's 'A' book. Blume Ranches have consigned bulls to the Calgary bull sale every year between 1944 and 2003, with the exception of one year. They have consigned the top selling bull in Calgary on seven different occasions; and have had four reserve Grand Champions as well as two Grand Champions. One of the Grand Champions, Wabash Extra 23K, sold for \$132,000 and made a tremendous impact on the Hereford breed in Canada.

Blume Ranches began to hold its own production sales in 1961, at a time when there were only two other production sales in Alberta. The 48<sup>th</sup> and final production sale is being held in November of 2008. Blume Ranches did not sell any females in its first 20 years of operation, and replacement heifers were raised on the ranch. All cattle had to perform under range conditions.

Both Walter and Allen are very involved with their community and their church as well as in the Hereford industry. Allen has served two terms on the Castor town council and has served on the hospital board for 18 years. He has also served 8 years on the Evangelical Missionary Church Board in Castor. Presently, Allen's wife Beverly is a public health nurse.

Walter served as Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School teacher at the Evangelical Missionary Church in Castor for many years. For the last 20 years, he has been giving the devotional at the local senior citizens lodge. Walter also took a major interest in horse racing from 1969 to 1986 and raised and ran thoroughbreds in Edmonton and Calgary. His keen interest in equine memorabilia has led Walter to collect an impressive saddle collection, including antique saddles. Walter has also judged shows around the world, including shows in the U.S., South America, Argentina, Australia, Denmark, and England. He has served on the Alberta Hereford Association Board, been a Calgary Bull Sale director for 30 years, as well as a trustee of the Keith Gilmore Foundation since its inception.

Walter's wife Genevieve taught public school and Sunday School. Now, she enjoys writing and has written a number of plays that their church community has performed; both Walter and Allen have acted in the plays over the last 8 years. Both families are also heavily involved with their children & grandchildren's activities that have included figure skating, rugby, water skiing, swimming, and music festivals.

The two brothers play on each other's strengths, and attribute the success of Blume Ranches to their amazing partnership. They also acknowledge with gratitude the commitment of George Moore who, since 1958, has worked alongside them. After 66 years of active participation in the Hereford industry, Walter and Allen are still only self-described 'farm boys from Castor.'

It is with great pleasure that the Canadian Hereford Association inducts Walter and Allen Blume into its Honour Roll.